



Childhood Connections

January 4, 2022

## Welcome to 2022!



Another year is upon us, 2022 is here! I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and some well-deserved time off to be with family and friends. For me, the holidays also represent a time of reflection, to consider what's important, and to reset as needed.

I'm not one to make a New Year's resolution because I think important goals worth making and keeping should happen throughout the year — why save them for just one day of the year!

This year, we will keep evolving, innovating, and challenging the “the way we’ve always done it” in our quest for the office to be effective. We have some big goals for 2022, including activities to improve customer service, use data systems, deliver professional development, and build community partnerships. We look forward to sharing out and working on these big goals with you!

All of us in the Office of Childhood are passionate about our work to support families with young children and I hope it shows in our messages, meetings, website pages, and through this e-newsletter. We hope you enjoy this first 2022 edition of Childhood Connections.

Sincerely,  
Pam Thomas  
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

## New! Contact Us Page for the Office of Childhood

The Office of Childhood (OOC) is excited to announce a new [Contact Us page](#)! As a result of stakeholder feedback, OOC staff worked with the Outreach team to make it easier for the public to identify which person or team in the office to contact with specific questions. This page includes the phone number and email address for each topic of interest. We hope this is a helpful resource!

## New Resource! Recruiting Tips for Child Care Providers



### Safe Cribs For Missouri

The Safe Cribs for Missouri program provides portable cribs and safe sleep education to families who cannot afford a safe crib. The OOC program is provided through the federal Maternal Child

Are you struggling to find qualified staff? This new resource, [Recruiting Tips for Child Care Providers](#), provides tips, strategies, and resources to help you recruit new staff. This resource was created in partnership between the OOC and the Department of Social Services Employment Training Services.

### **New Child Care Relief Funds Application Available!**

The OOC is pleased to announce another *Non-Traditional Hours of Care* funding opportunity for child care providers. These funds allow for reimbursement to child care providers who cared for children during non-traditional hours between September 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021. Visit the [Non-Traditional Care](#) webpage to apply or learn more.

Providers who are eligible to apply include:

- Licensed child care providers
- Registered six or fewer providers
- License-exempt providers
- School districts

Deadline to apply is February 10, 2022. After submitting your application, you can email [ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov](mailto:ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov) if you have questions about your submission.

### **New! Office of Childhood Transition Story**

Prior to the official opening of the OOC in August 2021, nearly 100 state of Missouri employees worked to transition staff from three agencies into one office. At the same time, childhood staff were finding ways to improve customer service and programs for families with young children. Read more about this transition story in the new infographic for the [Office of Childhood Transition](#).

### **Proposed Rule Changes — Next Steps**

The public comment period for the set of proposed rule changes prompted by the transition of DHSS, Section for Child Care Regulation to DESE's OOC has ended. On January 11, 2022, OOC staff will present the final orders of rulemaking to the State Board of Education. After Board approval, the orders will be filed with the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and then with the Secretary of State's office. The proposed rule changes are

Health Services Block Grant (Title V) and the state Children's Trust Fund. The program is implemented through participating local public health agencies. For more information, visit the [OOO safe cribs webpage here](#).

### **Child Care Director Certification/Approval**

Do you have questions about the process for child care director certification and/or approval? If so, we encourage you to [visit and bookmark this certification webpage](#). We recently revamped this site to include more information, instructions, links to forms, and information on who to contact if you have questions about a particular step in the process.

### **Child Care Background Check Website**

If you haven't already, please visit and bookmark the child care [background check process webpage](#). Here you can find important announcements, steps for completing a comprehensive criminal background check, required forms, and frequently asked questions.

### **Reminder! First Steps Background Screening/Fingerprint Changes**

published in the [Missouri Register](#) and are also available for review on the [Rules & Laws webpage](#).

The proposed rules do not include changes that would affect the current day-to-day practices of child care providers or departmental staff. The proposed rules update the department name to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and update outdated terminology and forms within rules.

### Family Child Care Network — Pilot Project

The Family Child Care Network (FCCN) is offering a pilot project to licensed family child care programs in Missouri with the following goals:

- Increasing peer networking opportunities for support and encouragement while reducing isolation
- Identifying and helping licensed family child care programs access resources
- Highlighting quality improvement services such as training and education/scholarship opportunities, business support, technical assistance, leadership development, and more
- Coaching and mentoring such as problem solving, providing encouragement, and providing access to materials and ideas to enhance children's learning
- Helping family child care providers find their voice, encouraging family child care providers to share their story, and helping them understand legislation that may impact them

View [the flyer here](#) and contact FCCN with any questions at [FCCNDirector@mochildcareaware.org](mailto:FCCNDirector@mochildcareaware.org).

### Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.

As of November 1, 2021, the registration code for [background screening/fingerprinting](#) for First Steps enrollment has changed. The new Missouri Automated Criminal History Site (MACHS) registration code is **8918**.

### Registration for CYY 2022 is Open!

The dates for the Conference on the Young Years (CYY) 2022 are March 10-11. The conference will be held virtually and at no-cost to participants. Visit [the event website](#) to register and learn more about the conference. Watch our [registration video](#) to assist you in accessing the event website and completing your registration.



Chadwick R-I students interacting with the local fire station. Photo courtesy of Chadwick R-I School District.

This month's Spotlight on Success is on the Chadwick Early Childhood Education program and its Community Advisory Committee. Their input is vital and used to help develop and maintain a needs assessment that accurately portrays the needs for the preschool. All members of the committee are local stakeholders. Along with parents, guardians, grandparents, and preschool staff, the committee is made up of individuals representing local partners, including Early Childhood Special Education Cooperative (Tri Lakes Coop), First Steps, Christian County (CC) Links (a disability services and support organization), the local Parent Teacher Organization chapter, Chadwick School Foundation Board, Christian County Social Services, Life 360 (local food pantry), Cox Care Mobile, Ozark Children's Smile Center, a local parent educator, and Burrell Behavioral Health.

As part of their meeting activities, the committee creates and reviews their list of priorities in order of greatest need. The top three priorities are discussed and strategies are identified. This committee truly embodies the voices and vision of the community for the Chadwick Early Childhood Education program.

### Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint](#)



[slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

### PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on January 31, 2022, from noon-12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate.

### Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email [civilrights@dese.mo.gov](mailto:civilrights@dese.mo.gov).



DESE Office of Childhood | 205 Jefferson Street - 1st Floor | Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Report Spam](#)